

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Hiroiyuki TAKAHASHI et al.

Attn: PCT Branch

Application No. New U.S. National Stage of PCT/JP2004/019281

Filed: June 22, 2006

Docket No.: 128466

For: VEHICULAR BUMPER STRUCTURE

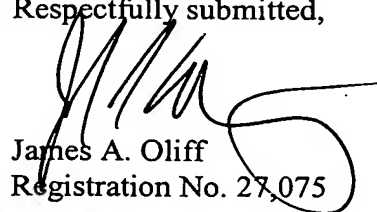
**TRANSMITTAL OF THE ANNEXES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Attached hereto are the annexes to the International Preliminary Report on Patentability (Form PCT/IPEA/409). The attached material replaces the claims in their entirety.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA/nxy

Date: June 22, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A vehicular bumper structure comprising:

a bumper reinforcement that extends along a vehicle width direction;

plural load detection sensors disposed at a vehicle body outer side surface of the bumper reinforcement; and

a load transmitting plate that is made of resinous material or metal, has predetermined rigidity and is disposed at vehicle body outer side surfaces of the plural load detection sensors; wherein

the rigidity is such that, when a certain load acts in a longitudinal direction of the vehicle body, the load transmitting plate does not contact a front wall of the bumper reinforcement between adjacent sensors of the load detection sensors.

2. The vehicular bumper structure of claim 1, wherein the plural load detection sensors are dispersed and disposed in a vehicle body vertical direction.

3. The vehicular bumper structure of claim 1, wherein the plural load detection sensors are dispersed and disposed in the vehicle width direction, and the load transmitting plate is divided in the vehicle width direction.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Amended) A collision detection method applicable to a vehicular bumper system of

claim 2, the method comprising:

measuring, with plural sensors, loads resulting from at least one occurring impact;
comparing the values of the loads measured by the plural sensors; and
discriminating the at least one collision body on the basis of the result of measurement by the plural sensors.

7. (Amended) A method of switching a vehicular collision body protection device that is installed in the vehicular bumper structure of claim 3, the method comprising:

measuring, with plural sensors, loads resulting from at least one occurring impact;
comparing the values of the loads measured by the plural sensors; and
discriminating an occurrence position of the at least one impact along a widthwise direction of a vehicle on the basis of the result of measurement by the plural sensors.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)